

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 6, 2001
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Roger Klingler, City of Scottsdale, Chairman	Dave Siegel, City of Chandler
Robert Hollander, City of Phoenix	Cato Esquivel, City of Goodyear
David McNeil, City of Tempe	Esmeralda Avila, City of Avondale
Eugene Jensen, Citizen Representative	Guy Carpenter for Lonnie Frost, City of
Bill Haney, City of Mesa	Gilbert
Patrick Clay, U of A Cooperative	John Getchell for Chris Zapata, City of
Extension Service	Glendale
John Power, Maricopa Environmental	*Laura Watson, Citizen Representative
Services Department	*John Boyer, Pinnacle West Capital
*Elaine Arena, Elaine Arena Associates	*Kevin Kadlec, City of Peoria
*Ray Hedrick, Salt River Project	*Gene Cetwinski, Valley Forward

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Rich Williams Sr., City of Surprise	Don Bush, Pacific Environmental Resources
Raj Thakur, RT Engineers	Corporation
Mark Courtney, Carollo Engineers	Karen Ashley, Damon S. Williams
Carroll Reynolds, City of El Mirage	Brenda Geisen, Maricopa Association of
	Governments

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee was conducted on Tuesday, March 6, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. Roger Klingler, Chairman, City of Scottsdale, called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of the November 15, 2000 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 15, 2000 meeting. Robert Hollander, City of Phoenix, moved, and John Getchell for Chris Zapata, City of Glendale, seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2000 meeting.

3. Discussion of Committee Procedure for Public Hearing Portion of Draft MAG 208 Plan Amendments

Chairman Klingler indicated that agenda item number three is listed on the agenda for information and discussion of Committee preference on procedure for the public hearing portion of Draft MAG 208 Plan Amendments.

He indicated two options for consideration were 1) hold hearings within a 4:00 p.m. committee meeting to immediately consider public comments and decide whether to make recommendation to MAG Management Committee or 2) hold hearings at 4:00 p.m. and schedule separate 10:00 a.m. committee meeting to consider public comments and decide whether to make a recommendation to the MAG Management Committee.

Mr. Hollander indicated that in the interest of recognizing recent efforts to streamline the 208 planning process, the committee may want to hold public hearings within the Water Quality Advisory Committee meetings and it should be requested that the Committee consider public comments and make a recommendation to the MAG Management Committee the same day.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee unanimously agreed to hold public hearings on draft 208 Plan amendments within a 4:00 p.m. committee meeting and to immediately consider public comments and decide whether to make a recommendation to the MAG Management Committee.

4. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of El Mirage Water Reclamation Facility

Chairman Klingler indicated that agenda item number four is listed on the agenda for information, discussion, and a possible authorization to conduct a public hearing on the Draft 208 Plan Amendment. Steve Owen, Pacific Environmental Resources Corporation, gave a presentation on the proposed facility.

Mr. Owen indicated that the City of El Mirage is requesting that a multi-phased expansion of the existing facility from the current 0.7 million gallons per day (mgd) to an ultimate capacity of 3.6 mgd and a monthly peak of 4.32 mgd be added to the MAG 208 Plan. Mr. Owen indicated that excess reclaimed effluent from the proposed facility would be disposed of through reuse, potential recharge, and discharge to the Agua Fria River.

Mr. Owen indicated that the City of Glendale, City of Peoria, City of Surprise, Town of Youngtown and Maricopa County are within three miles of the project, and they do not object to the proposed facility. He also indicated that the proposed facility would be located within three miles of Luke Air Force Base and a letter of no objection had been received from Luke.

Mr. Owen indicated that the El Mirage City Council had approved the proposed facility after touring a California facility of similar design. He indicated that the El Mirage City Council had approved funding of the proposed expansion through the October, 2000 sale of bonds. He indicated that Maricopa County had issued an Approval to Construct for the 1.5 mgd expansion, and an application for an Individual Aquifer Protection Permit had been submitted to Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Mr. Owen indicated that, as an alternative method, El Mirage had considered the expansion of the existing facility. This alternative was not chosen due to limited land availability. He indicated the proposed facility would provide more efficient treatment processes with a small footprint, good setbacks, effective odor and noise control, and optimal proximity to existing plant and pipelines, and to an existing golf course reuse site.

Robert Hollander inquired whether the City of El Mirage would work with the golf course to obtain required reuse permits as they accept plant effluent for the purpose of reuse.

Carroll Reynolds, City of El Mirage, indicated that the City's existing contract with Pueblo El Mirage Golf Course includes language indicating that Pueblo El Mirage is responsible to obtain and adhere to all required permits. He indicated that the City is responsible for the Point of Compliance at the current discharge point.

Mr. Hollander indicated that there is a typographical error on page 23, under Item F which should read "40 CFR Part 503" rather than "40 CFR Part 32". He also noted that page 24, Item IV should read "December 2001" rather than "December 2000".

Mr. Owen acknowledged that these are typographical errors and that they will be corrected.

Mr. Hollander inquired when discharge to the Agua Fria River would occur and what the anticipated discharge amount would be.

Mr. Reynolds indicated that, due to financial limitations of the small community, discharge was currently occurring. He indicated that the City is working to develop a master plan for storage and recovery, but the evaluation was too preliminary to determine details or tell when the plans would be finalized and implemented.

Eugene Jensen, Citizen Representative, indicated that he wanted to go on record with a concern over a lack of adequate geological studies to determine the potential impact of the proposed facility on an area which has experienced subsidence as a result of groundwater pumping in the past.

Cato Esquivel, City of Goodyear, inquired about the fate of the existing oxidation ditches and drying beds when the existing plant is taken off line.

Mr. Owen indicated that the existing oxidation ditches and drying beds would be taken off line as well.

Mr. Esquivel inquired whether a potential site for groundwater recharge had been established, and whether the Agua Fria River had been considered as a recharge site.

Mr. Reynolds indicated that planning for a groundwater recharge system is preliminary at this point, but there is an area near Dysart Road and Olive Avenue which may be considered.

Mr. Esquivel asked what will happen to effluent that does not currently meet permit requirements when the new facility is operating.

Mr. Reynolds indicated that the City intends to take a proactive approach and to ensure that the new facility meets reuse and effluent permit requirements.

John Getchell, City of Glendale, inquired whether the proposed facility would accept flow from development south of Peoria Avenue, and stated that Glendale is concerned with the potential impacts of growth in that area on Luke Air Force Base.

Mr. Reynolds indicated that the facility would accept flow from areas south of Peoria Avenue. He stated this area is currently zoned generally for commercial and industrial development, and a zoning change would require City Council approval.

Chairman Klingler indicated that this agenda item was for information, discussion and possible authorization to conduct a public hearing on the Draft 208 Plan Amendment. Mr. Getchell moved and Mr. Hollander seconded, and it was unanimously passed that a public hearing be conducted on the Draft 208 Plan Amendment for the City of El Mirage Water Reclamation Facility.

5. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Surprise South Water Reclamation Facility

Chairman Klingler indicated that agenda item number five was for information, discussion, and possible authorization to conduct a public hearing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Surprise South Water Reclamation Facility. Raj Thakur, RT Engineering, gave a presentation on the proposed facility.

Mr. Thakur indicated that the City of Surprise has requested that the MAG 208 Plan be amended to include a multi-phased expansion of the Surprise South Facility from the existing 3.2 mgd to an ultimate capacity of 36.0 mgd. Excess reclaimed effluent from the facility would be disposed of through recharge basins.

Mr. Thakur indicated that the City of El Mirage, City of Glendale, City of Peoria, Town of Youngtown, and Maricopa County are within three miles of the project and have indicated they do not object to the proposed facility.

Mr. Thakur indicated that the existing facility is currently conducting groundwater recharge through recharge basins 1 and 2, and described how wastewater flow occurs through the current system. He indicated additional land has been acquired to accommodate greater recharge amounts in the future.

Mr. Thakur indicated that Surprise has requested that the existing Individual Aquifer Protection Permit and recharge permit be modified to reflect the 7.2 mgd capacity. He indicated that the City of Surprise has the financial capability to construct the proposed facility and the costs for the initial 4.0 mgd expansion have been included in the Surprise Fiscal Year 2001 Capital Plan.

Mr. Hollander indicated that page 19 of the draft amendment includes permitting considerations, and that Surprise should be aware of all required permits, including NPDES Stormwater permits and dust control requirements of Maricopa County.

Mr. Hollander inquired what type of odor control the facility would employ.

Mr. Thakur indicated that an advanced four stage process, which has been very successful in odor control methods in a Texas facility, would be employed.

Mr. Esquivel inquired how odor control would be addressed with regard to the oxidizers and clarifiers.

Mr. Thakur indicated that advanced odor control methods would be employed in regard to the oxidizers and clarifiers.

Rich Williams, City of Surprise, indicated that the City has been conducting wastewater treatment at this site for six years and odor control has not been a problem. Surprise has taken steps to allow adequate buffering on the existing site.

Eugene Jensen indicated that he wanted to go on record with a concern over a lack of adequate geological studies to determine the potential impact of the proposed facility on an area which has experienced subsidence as a result of groundwater pumping in the past.

Mr. Williams indicated that the City has evaluated the potential impact and has considered this issue throughout the existence of the facility.

Mr. Hollander noted the likelihood that evaluation of geological and hydrological conditions has been conducted by ADEQ and ADWR as part of their consideration to issue permits for the existing facility.

Chairman Klingler indicated that this agenda item was for information, discussion and possible authorization to conduct a public hearing on the Draft 208 Plan Amendment. Mr. Jensen moved and Mr. Getchell seconded, and it was unanimously passed that a public hearing be conducted on the Draft 208 Plan Amendment for the City of Surprise South Water Reclamation Facility.

6. Update on the Revision to the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan

Chairman Klingler indicated that agenda item number six was listed on the agenda for information and discussion. Mark Courtney of Carollo Engineers, MAG consultant, presented an update on the work performed on the Revision to the MAG 208 Plan.

The items discussed included the current status of the project, the Point Source Plan and the Nonpoint Source Plan. Mr. Courtney indicated that the MAG internal review of the Study Area Description is complete. He indicated that the Description of Water Resources and portions of the Point Source Plan are currently under MAG internal review. Drafts of the Management Plan and Nonpoint Source Plan are nearly ready for submittal to MAG for internal review.

Mr. Courtney indicated that the Permits and Protected Uses Section of the Plan has been updated to include changes to State water quality programs and regulations that have occurred since the 1993 revision. He indicated that the Nonpoint Source Plan had been revised to reflect changes in the State Nonpoint Source Management Plan. ADEQ is currently conducting a revision of this State Plan.

Brenda Geisen, MAG, indicated that the Permits and Protected Uses Section of the Point Source Plan and the Description of Water Resources are currently under review by ADEQ and ADWR. She indicated that this review is important in ensuring the Revision is consistent with current State programs and regulations.

Mr. Hollander inquired which drafts would be reviewed by the Committee, when they would be reviewed, and how much time would be provided for the review.

Ms. Geisen indicated that external review of the Revision would occur according to the procedure taken in the 1993 revision. All Chapters of the Revision would undergo review since the document as a whole needs to be available for review through the public participation process. Three key elements: the Scope of Work, Point Source Plan, and Nonpoint Source Plan, are to be submitted to the Committee for review and comment.

Ms. Geisen indicated Committee review and comment of the Scope of Work has already occurred, and the Point Source Plan and Nonpoint Source Plan would be provided to the Committee when internal review is complete and MAG comments have been incorporated.

She indicated that adequate review and comment time would be provided to Committee members.

7. “Water, People, Sewage and Salts” by Dr. Herman Bouwer

Chairman Klingler indicated that this item was listed on the agenda for information and discussion. He introduced Dr. Herman Bouwer, U.S. Water Conservation Laboratory, to provide a presentation on water quality and water resource issues. Chairman Klingler then turned the meeting over to Robert Hollander, City of Phoenix, who graciously agreed to act as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. Bouwer’s presentation included discussion of integrated water management, effect of groundwater pumping on stream flow, water reuse, considerations involved with potential use of reclaimed water for potable supplies, impact of salts and pharmaceuticals in groundwater, and role of virtual water in managing regional and international water and food problems.

8. Call to the Public

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the Water Quality Advisory Committee. No comments were presented. Acting Chairman Hollander then called for adjournment of the meeting.